

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 August 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
21 AUGUST 1967LATE ITEM

Congo

[redacted] the Rwandans are refusing to have anything to do with the mercenaries and are insisting they must surrender on Congolese soil. Congolese Foreign Minister Bomboko is seeing Rwandan President Kayibanda now in an effort to break through this latest log jam.

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The Communists apparently hope to strike strategic allied targets before the elections. Recently captured North Vietnamese soldiers say their unit--an artillery regiment trained in rocketry--is preparing for another bombardment of Da Nang Airbase. The base was hit by rockets on 15 July.

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Moderate Buddhist and Catholic leaders are lining up behind the Thieu-Ky ticket.

The Catholic bishops made their decision to support the military candidates at a meeting last week. Tam Chau, who speaks for the moderate Buddhists, told an American official on Saturday that he will not make a public statement on his position, but he intends to let it be known that he is voting for Thieu and Ky.

Although neither the bishops nor Tam Chau can guarantee a bloc vote by their followers, the support of these religious leaders will certainly help.

2. Nigeria

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3. Communist China

New signs are cropping up that the Maoists in Peking are jittery over the loyalty of the army. Propaganda output about the army is defensive in tone and the first Red Guard anniversary, 18 August, received low-key treatment.

Peking may also be trying to deal with its more serious troubles by direct negotiations with some of the powerful provincial leaders.

4. Hong Kong

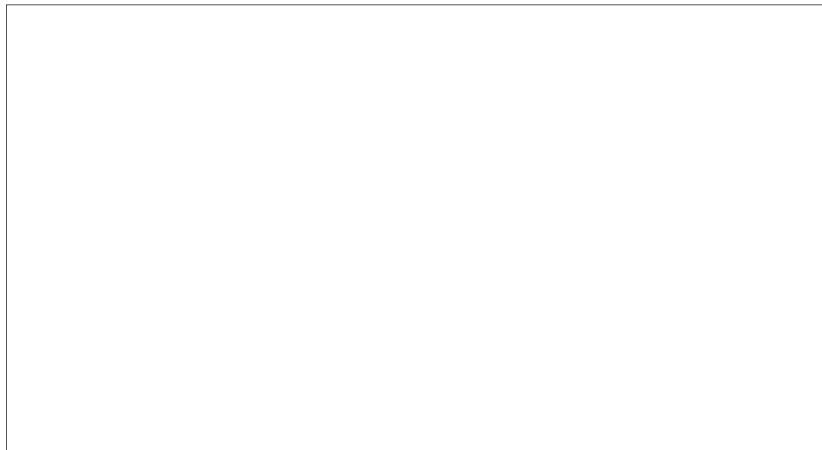
Four days ago the British banned three pro-Communist newspapers and arrested 53 newsmen. Peking, in a note delivered yesterday, gave the British until tomorrow to release the prisoners and lift the ban--or be responsible for "all the serious consequences arising therefrom."

The British are expected to reject this demand as they did similar ones last spring. They may, however, throw the Chinese some sort of bone that Peking can convert into a paper victory.

These repeated crises are severely shaking the confidence of Hong Kong's business community and there has been a significant flow of capital from the colony.

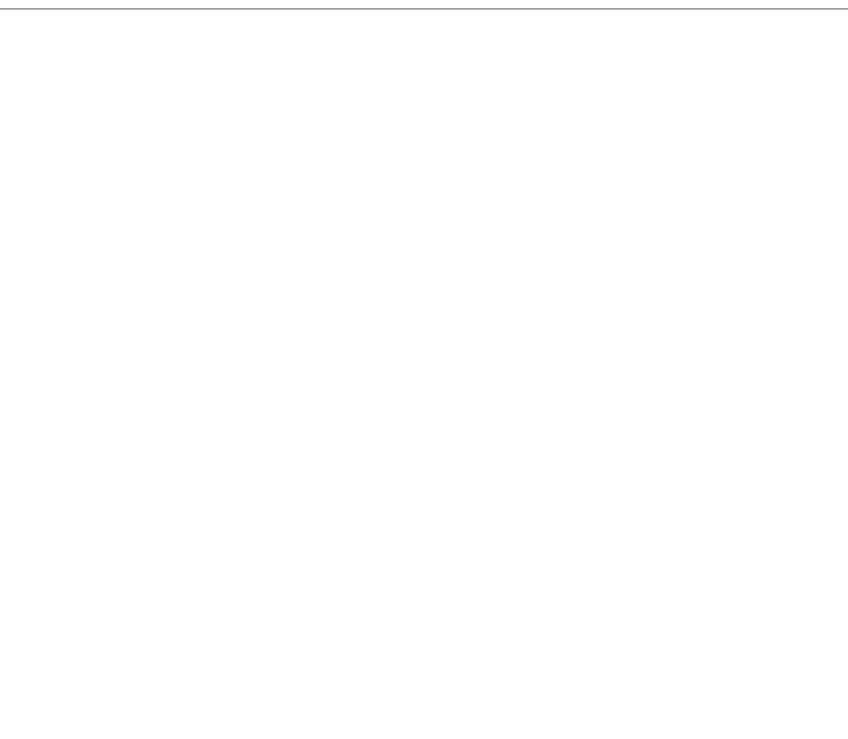
5. Soviet Union

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6. Czechoslovakia

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